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JAPAN · ECONOMIC · INSTITUTE

JEI REPORT

No. 23B
June 17, 1983

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Simplification of Import Procedures Continues in Japan

Japan is continuing to consider changes in customs inspection procedures and standards in order to ease what foreign exporters continue to regard as a barrier to trade. Recent actions include recommendations from the Administrative Management Agency (AMA), the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Transportation.

The Administrative Management Agency conducted a lengthy review of complaints about inspection procedures during February and March, focusing on problems that have

Trade and Payments Data
(in millions of dollars unless otherwise indicated)

	1981	1982	January-April 1982	January-April 1983	February 1983	March 1983	April 1983
Japan's Balance of Payments							
Trade Balance	$ 19,967	$ 18,079	$ 3,870	$ 7,139*	$ 2,146*	$ 2,856*	$ 2,755*
Exports (f.o.b.)	149,522	137,663	47,132	45,368*	11,028*	12,962*	12,054*
Imports (f.o.b.)	129,555	119,584	43,262	38,229*	8,882*	10,106*	9,299*
Current Account Balance	4,770	6,850	350	3,716*	947*	1,913*	2,300*
Long-Term Capital (net)	-9,672	-14,969	-7,781	-5,124*	-265*	-2,205*	-2,033*
Overall Balance	-2,144	-4,971	-6,474	1,363	1,313	597	-1,055
International Reserves (end of period)	28,403	23,262	26,807	24,272	23,754	24,015	24,272
Japan's Customs Clearance Trade							
Trade Balance	8,741	6,900	-202	3,763*	1,403	2,033	2,025*
Exports (f.o.b.)	152,030	138,831	47,761	45,451*	11,036	13,002	12,186*
Cars	18,445	18,015	6,137	6,488*	1,620	1,415*	1,830*
Steel	16,669	15,645	5,501	3,960*	967	1,139*	1,001*
Imports (c.i.f.)	143,290	131,931	47,963	41,688*	9,633	10,969	10,161*
Crude Oil	53,343	46,274	17,879	14,848*	3,531	3,791*	3,346*
Japan-U.S. Trade							
Trade Balance	13,312	12,151	3,933	4,518*	1,099	1,268	1,546*
Exports (f.o.b.)	38,609	36,330	12,324	12,011*	2,826	3,253	3,407*
Imports (c.i.f.)	25,297	24,179	8,391	7,493*	1,727	1,985	1,861*
Yen-Dollar Exchange Rate							
Tokyo Spot Market (end of period)	¥219.90	¥235.00	---	---	¥235.40	¥239.40	¥237.70
U.S.-Japan Trade							
Trade Balance	-15,789	-16,778	-5,877	-5,810	-1,471	-1,659	-1,328
Exports (f.a.s)	21,823	20,966	6,928	6,558	1,424	1,781	1,752
Industrial Supplies	8,983	9,173	3,297	2,889	582	755	838
Food and Feed	5,896	4,971	1,497	1,576	380	407	416
Capital Goods	4,767	4,434	1,398	1,345	287	412	325
Consumer Goods	1,318	1,356	433	457	107	126	118
Imports (Customs)	37,612	37,744	12,805	12,368	2,895	3,440	3,080
Automotive Products	12,950	12,890	4,323	4,471	1,086	1,282	1,002
Industrial Supplies	7,179	6,795	2,513	1,671	298	452	414
Consumer Goods	8,340	7,842	2,598	2,511	551	688	665
Capital Goods	8,589	9,530	3,081	3,502	810	962	940

*Preliminary

STATISTICAL SUPPLEMENT

Japanese Economic Indicators

(percentage change from year-earlier period unless otherwise indicated)

	1981	1982	January-March 1982	January-March 1983	January 1983	February 1983	March 1983
Discount Rate (end of period)	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%
Outstanding Money Supply	8.9%	9.2%	10.6%	7.6%	7.7%	7.4%	7.6%
Industrial Production	1.0%	0.3%	2.8%	-1.8%	-1.7%	-1.5%	-2.0%
Manufacturing Operating Rate	-4.6%	-2.6%	-1.3%	n.a.	-2.7%	-3.6%	n.a.
Number of Bankruptcies	-1.5%	-2.8%	-5.0%	5.7%	1.1%	4.7%	10.3%
Residential Construction Starts	-9.2%	-0.5%	-3.6%	4.5%*	20.7%	5.2%	-7.0%*
Job Openings to Applications (ratio)	0.68	0.61	0.65	0.60	0.60	0.59	0.61
Nominal Wages	5.3%	4.5%	4.3%	5.7%	5.9%	5.9%	5.3%
Labor Productivity	3.5%	1.6%	3.3%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Wholesale Prices	1.4%	1.8%	2.5%	-0.7%	-0.1%	-0.7%	-1.4%
Consumer Prices	4.9%	2.7%	3.1%	2.1%	2.0%	1.9%	2.3%
Yen-Based Export Prices	1.2%	3.9%	7.5%	-5.1%	-3.5%	-5.5%	-6.2%
Yen-Based Import Prices	1.6%	7.9%	8.9%	-0.6%	2.6%	-0.3%	-4.0%

*Preliminary

For Japan's most recent GNP data, see JEI Report No. 11B, March 25, 1983.